

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 220848Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7451

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14712

EXDIS

DEPT PASS DOD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CISCO KIDNAPPING DEC 21

REF: ASMARA 1009

1. KIDNAPPING DEC 21 OF CISCO CONTRACT EMPLOYEE RONALD MICHALKE BRINGS NEW DIMENSION TO SITUATION OF AMERICANS IN ASMARA. PREVIOUS KAGNEW FOUR ABDUCTIONS WERE FROM OUTLYING TRACT D FOR WHICH USG DID NOT RPT NOT REQUEST EPMG PROTECTION. HOWEVER, WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ASKED FOR EPMG PROTECTION FOR ALL OTHER OFFICIAL USG SITES AND RESIDENCES, AND IT WAS FROM ONE OF THESE THAT MICHALKE WAS ABDUCTED. WHILE ABILITY OF EPMG ADEQUATELY TO PROTECT FOREIGNERS IS OF COURSE VERY DOUBTFUL (IN LIGHT OF RECENT KID-NAPPINGS

OF BRITISH HONORARY CONSUL, ITALIAN TEACHER, AND TWO HONG KONG CHINESE) WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST ON EPMG RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTION, AND TO INSIST ON AUGMENTED SECURITY MEASURES. CONGEN ASMARA SHOULD MAKE THIS POINT, AS EMBASSY IS MAKING IT TO MOFA TODAY. CONGEN SHOULD ALSO REQUEST PLANNING SESSION WITH EPMG AUTHORITIES FOR CONCRETE PLANS FOR AUGMENTED SECURITY.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES WE MUST TAKE NEW LOOK AT ALL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, AND IS SENDING SECURITY OFFICER TO ASMARA
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FOR THAT PURPOSE. TIME HAS COME TO CONSIDER GROUPING ALL

AMERICANS IN MORE EASILY DEFENSIBLE COMPOUNDS, ABOLISHING ALL SEPARATE RESIDENCES. REALIZE THIS WOULD PRESENT SERIOUS MORALE FACTOR, AS WELL AS PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE STUDIED. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT EPMG MAY SUGGEST SUCH A COURSE ANYWAY. IMPACT WOULD PRESUMABLY FALL HEAVIEST ON CISCO CONTRACT EMPLOYEES, MANY OF WHOM MIGHT NOT AGREE TO STAY IN ASMARA IF THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT IS RADICALLY CHANGED SO AS TO RULE OUT PREVIOUS AMENITIES. CISCO CONTRACTOR'S ABILITY TO FORCE THEM TO GIVE UP PRESENT SCATTERED HOUSING MAY ALSO PRESENT PROBLEM.

3. CONGEN SHOULD GIVE EMBASSY AND DEPT ITS VIEWS ON NEED AND FEASIBILITY OF DOING SO, BEFORE SECURITY OFFICER'S ARRIVAL, WHICH MUST AWAIT EPMG PROCEDURAL PERMISSION AND TRANSPORTATION.

4. DEPT SHOULD EXPEDITE BASIC RE-EXAMINATION OF BALANCE BETWEEN USG NEED FOR KAGNEW STATION AND CONTINUING AND AUGMENTED RISKS INVOLVED.

5. ON PUBLIC RELATIONS SIDE, WE WOULD PREFER THAT NEWS BE ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON AND THAT WE BE INFORMED OF TEXT IMMEDIATELY. IF PRESS GETS WIND OF STORY BEFORE WASHINGTON ANNOUNCEMENT, HOWEVER, EMBASSY AND CONGEN WILL CONFIRM BASIC FACT OF ABDUCTION IF ASKED, BUT DECLINE FURTHER COMMENT AND WITHHOLD NAME UNTIL NEXT OF KIN NOTIFIED.

6. SEPTTEL WILL REPORT APPROACHES WE ARE MAKING TO EPMG IN ADDIS.
HUMMEL

NOTE BY OC/T: ADDIS ABABA 14712 NOT PASSED DOD.

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